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First to Last—The Truth: News, Editorials, Advertisements
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Nobbe's Release

The denial may be true that no particular secrecy has marked the proceedings relating to the release of Francis H. Nobbe, convicted of violation of the anti-trust law and sentenced to serve four months in jail. But it will be admitted that the matter was not widely advertised.

On January 4 the affidavits that Nobbe was so ill that confinement threatened his life were forwarded to Washington. So far as the public is aware there was no publicity. The commutation order was issued with great celerity on January 7, with still no publicity. Not until the release was a fact accomplished was the public informed. If the prisoner had a pulmonary hemorrhage the keeping back of the information was most unfortunate. Attorney General Daugherty, who has intimate knowledge of the remarkable recovery of Charles W. Morse, and District Attorney Hayward are scarcely so innocent as not to know what persons would think if lack of frankness fed suspicion.

Maybe nothing was "put across" on President Harding, as something was "put across" on President Taft; it may also be untrue, as reported, that Nobbe expects in a short time to be at his office again; it may be that the late prisoner, mindful of proprieties, will take a trip to Saranac, where he can count on being free of the solicitations of life insurance agents who may regard him as a good risk. But why cover up the details of an indisposition which excited the solicitude of a tender-minded doctor?

The public is not savage. It does not demand that jailbirds die in their cells. But it would not have propaganda material furnished to revolutionary radicals, and is perfectly competent to regard the circumstances surrounding the delivery of Nobbe as scandalous.

Poincaré's Program

Poincaré's first speech in the Chamber of Deputies reiterates the policy already pretty well defined in the speeches and articles in which the Premier attacked Briand. The new ministry will stand for treaty enforcement, and especially against modifications of it made for the purpose of relieving and rehabilitating Germany.

Reparation comes first in the French mind. On this Poincaré is uncompromising. If Germany should default on her obligations, he said, France, after consulting with the Reparation Commission, would have to consider measures to enforce fulfillment, including control of Germany's budget, her currency issues and her exports. He also favored the execution of the treaty provisions and the punishment of the German war criminals. Until these sections of the treaty are enforced, he held, the Allies might well decide that the period for the evacuation of the Rhine provinces had not begun to run.

As to the Cannes conference, he takes the position that treaty revision should not be discussed there and repeated his recent statement that an essential condition to general economic reorganization in Europe is the restoration of the devastated regions—especially in those countries which were attacked first by Germany—Belgium and France.

"We ask nothing but payment of what is due us" is the keynote of the new French policy. As the Premier noted the other day, the moral side of his policy will be emphasized. There stands the treaty. There also stands an unrepentant, obstructive Germany, clamoring for penalty remissions. What choice is to be made by those who imposed the treaty on Germany? Is Germany to be preferred to France? If so, why?

The first step toward an economic settlement in Europe is security for France. She has the first claim. Germany's and Russia's claims certainly come later. Poincaré thus has reduced the problem to its simplest terms. He has stated clearly a view to which the French people have gradually been coming after many luckless experiments at treaty modification. France takes a stand.

nately on her treaty rights. Those who quarrel with that stand are quarrelling not so much with France as with the treaty.

The Chinese "Open Door"

The powers represented in the Washington conference repeatedly have subscribed to the theory of the "open door" in China. They have promised to observe the principle of equality of commercial opportunity and, as a corollary, to respect China's territorial integrity and political independence.

At Washington these abstractions now are being translated into concrete agreements. Hitherto the "open door" has been kept open rather fitfully. At least one of the "open door" powers kept on obtaining concessions which infringed Chinese sovereignty and militated against equality of commercial opportunity. Under the Root resolutions, adopted at an early session of the conference, encroachments on China's independence, such as extraterritorial rights, spheres of influence, territorial leases, foreign postoffices and a foreign control of China's tariff rates, already have been abated. The conference now is trying to give practical application to the economic equality theory.

The three Hughes resolutions adopted on Wednesday bind the conference nations once more not to seek monopolistic or discriminatory privileges in China. They also provide, for the first time, machinery to deal with infractions of this self-denying ordinance. An international Board of Reference is to be created, to act as umpire on all complaints of infringements.

Here is a constructive achievement. The "open door" is to have a doorkeeper instead of standing unguarded. The pessimists naturally are not appeased by the sort of guaranty which looks solely to the future. They lay emphasis on the fact that the fourth Hughes resolution has been dropped. It looked to the past and subjected existing concessions in China to the scrutiny of the new Board of Reference. Japan would not agree to this. She wanted nothing retroactive.

The United States would like to have the record of the past cleared up and Chinese sovereignty restored to the fullest extent possible. But it is clear that such a restoration must be gradual. The greatest obstacle to it is the present political situation in China. The new Peking government is a dubious quantity, a product of reaction—perhaps counter-revolutionary and inclined to favor Japan. It is not easy to underwrite full Chinese rights when China hesitates about defining them.

Chile's Confidence

Don Agustín Edwards, for eleven years Chile's Ambassador to Great Britain, and one of the leading public men of the trans-Andean republic, is not a South American who fears the North American peril or alarmed by close relations between the two great English-speaking dominions.

"There was a time," he said, in his notable address to the Chile-American Association, "when Latin America was haunted by a spectre called Anglo-Saxon imperialism. But the period has passed. 'I reckon myself,' declared the ambassador, 'among those who do not believe in the menace of the great. I fear very much more the lurking treachery of the little. For that reason I am convinced of the solid advantages that would accrue to Latin America from a close and cordial understanding between the two great Anglo-Saxon powers.'"

Surely a most unequivocal utterance—one calculated to quiet those who say that an increase of cordiality between the United States and the British Empire will be offensive to our neighbors of the South. South America, her resources but scratched, would attract capital and competent industrial and engineering assistance. Her saner men see they are most likely to get these speedily if the two English-speaking peoples march together. Pushed aside as a foolish chimera is the vision which has in mind the political subjection of any people.

The American people will not be unmindful of the confidence in the rectitude of their intentions which is expressed by this distinguished Chilean. It is a compliment which every North American will hope is justified.

Too Many Games?

President Lowell of Harvard suggests that the number of games played by college football teams may be excessive. He points out that the single Harvard-Yale boat race at New London is enough to stimulate great activity in rowing. Will a few games of football and baseball each year arouse sufficient interest in those sports?

There is little doubt that the popularity of intercollegiate football and baseball has increased enormously in recent years. This in itself has helped create a desire in the minds of undergraduates to take a greater part in the sporting life of the college. The tendency, however, to place these intercollegiate games on a plane with professional baseball and to make them sectional or even national contests risks emphasizing too greatly the decisive matches rather than the sport itself, and may increase the number of those who

take their exercise by cheering the varsity teams.

One of the main purposes of intercollegiate games is to encourage participation in sports by an ever larger percentage of undergraduates. The great increase in the number of crews at Harvard during the last few years is an example of the good effects of such an impetus. Other sports have received similar encouragement elsewhere.

The ideal in college athletics is, of course, the development of a large number of good athletes rather than a limited number of experts. Fortunately this is the general tendency in most colleges and universities to-day. President Lowell's suggestion may thus be read not as a criticism but merely as a warning against the present tendency toward an increasing number of intercollegiate contests.

Let Randolph Do It

It is hardly fair for Mr. Hylan to force the city to pay the expenses of a long and futile legal battle to overthrow the Transit Commission. It will cost many thousands of dollars to carry the case to the United States Supreme Court, provided this can be done, and the chance of success is negligible.

Inasmuch as the city can ill afford this expense, Mr. Hylan might ask Mr. Hearst to bear it. Mr. Hearst incited Mr. Hylan to his present course of action. Also he has vast amounts of money. By meeting the litigation bill he will at least harvest a little publicity and gain a little practice in the spending of large sums of money, practice that may come in handy when he begins to run for the high office for which Mr. Hylan has nominated him.

Going to It

Two items in the news of Thursday are of interest to taxpayers. One deals with the activity of the engineers of the New York Board of Water Supply in surveying watersheds and aqueduct routes that will not be needed for more than fifty years. The other tells of Police Commissioner Enright's request for \$2,000,000 to be expended under his exclusive direction, in the construction of new police stations—the best "good thing" which has come into sight since the Police Hospital flivvered.

The attention of taxpayers is called to these two items because, just at present, taxpayers are very much in favor of rigid economy in state and city affairs. Already they are carrying all the load they can carry. Living expenses are still above normal, with wages and salaries steadily decreasing. Any plans looking toward indiscriminate extravagance in the immediate future are of serious consequence.

Tammany Hall, however, is not concerned with the taxpayers beyond what it can get out of them. It is certain of only four years more in full power in the city government; and there are increasing indications that it expects to be busy, profitably, during these four years.

After the Board of Water Supply had completed the Ashokan water system it was announced that New York's water supply would be adequate to meet all possible demands for fifty years. Mr. Hylan, then a candidate for Mayor, severely criticized Mayor Mitchell for not scrapping the board. On his election Mr. Hylan put one of Mr. Hearst's young men on the board, with instructions to report to him that the board ought to be ended. The young man has been in office for four years and has drawn, or is credited with drawing, \$48,000 from the city in that time. His report, so far as can be learned, has never been made.

Now the board, instead of going out of existence, has resumed activities, and its activities are going to be expensive.

At the same time Mr. Enright comes forward with a method of putting the taxpayers' money into circulation. Clearly, whether the people want to be thrifty or not they will have little chance if they happen to live in New York City.

There is, it is true, a better prospect in the state. While Tammany has been looking hungrily toward the day when it could have complete control of the city Governor Miller has been cutting millions of dollars from the state expenses, making a consequent reduction in the state tax roll. This proves that economy is possible if the elected officials desire it. But Tammany desires extravagance—proposes to get while the getting is good.

Doctors of Hospitality

Long buried in the back numbers of the comic paper is the haughty hotel clerk whose object in life was to frighten the unhappy applicant for accommodations. But now the running of hotels has become a profession, demanding both art and science.

The staff of a modern hotel is a highly trained and disciplined army, officered by men whose salaries might well be envied by the general officers in the army of the United States. And now it is proposed that Cornell recognize the importance of the calling by giving a special course of training to the young men who hear its summons. Few people will question the desirability of such training, but should the state supply the funds to

provide it? Hotel men have already made fortunes by the elevation of the trade of innkeeping to the profession of hotel conducting. It would be highly fitting for some of these gentlemen, who know better than any one else how useful the hotel business is and how important a part it will play in the future, to furnish the money to endow the needed chairs and lectureships.

The Selden Patent

Application Delayed at the Instance of the Inventor

To the Editor of The Tribune:
Sir: I notice a remark in your paper this morning which I feel sure you will correct when you appreciate the inadvertent injustice which you have done. In an article on the death of George Selden the United States Patent Office was referred to as "the great circumspection office" on account of the great delay in the prosecution of Mr. Selden's application. The writer has been an examiner in the Patent Office and now practices before it, and consequently feels that he cannot let that slur pass uncorrected.

An examination of the record will show that the application referred to was deliberately delayed by the inventor in spite of the Patent Office and not by the office. When the Commissioner attempted to put an end to the delay the inventor resorted to the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia, which held that the inventor had the legal right to delay in spite of the efforts of the Commissioner. It was clearly the intention of the inventor to hold his case in the office until the industry had developed without the benefit of his invention and then levy tribute on an industry to whose growth he had not contributed. Under the law the Commissioner is comparatively powerless.

The fault lies with the statutes. These have been somewhat amended since the filing of the Selden application, and by recent decisions the Commissioner is given somewhat greater powers, but the same essential condition exists to-day.

The whole fault lies in the fact that the general public does not appreciate how intimately the Patent Office affects its daily life, for there is scarcely an article which we eat or wear that is not paying tribute either directly or indirectly. The result is that the Patent Office and the patent law are neglected. The Patent Office, so far from being an inefficient instrument, is, considering the handicaps which are placed upon it, remarkably efficient.

The work of the examiners is at least as exacting as that of United States judges, for it requires for its adequate performance a thorough knowledge of law and a thorough knowledge of technicalities, and yet they are paid at the present time an average salary of about \$2,000 a year—about the pay of a mediocre clerk. While, under the circumstances, the work is remarkably well conducted, it stands to reason that no adequate service of such a difficult and responsible character can be obtained at such a price. And this is in spite of the fact that the Patent Office makes a handsome profit for the government every year. WILLIS B. RICE, New York, Jan. 18, 1922.

Penal System Revision

To the Editor of The Tribune:
Sir: I trust that other letters besides this will be called forth by the letter of Stephen Hawes in your issue of January 15. His proposed method of dealing with the criminal seems to me admirable and if it can be reiterated it may ultimately be incorporated into the law.

The criminal law until a very recent date was wholly concerned with the meting out of punishment to fit crime. It took no account of the fact that a very large percentage of criminals were mentally deficient and would remain in that respect children for life. This being the case, their being at large is both an injury to society and to themselves. To shut them up behind iron bars is unfair to them, although it may temporarily remove the menace to society.

Under proper restraint and government they could be self-supporting, find a reasonable amount of happiness in life and their menace to society would be almost entirely removed. The criminal aspect of their detention could be minimized and perhaps in many cases entirely removed. But restraint by the state ought to be continued indefinitely until it is demonstrated that they no longer require it. CHARLES E. MANIERRE, New York, Jan. 18, 1922.

Amendment Reminders

To the Editor of The Tribune:
Sir: The picture in to-day's Tribune of the W. C. T. U. card to be hung in the window in "dry" homes suggests something. The legend on the card reads: "Serve America—Support the Constitution."

I suggest that several million of these W. C. T. U. cards be sent to the people of the states where the Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments to the Constitution have been ignored, defied and nullified for the past fifty years. No doubt disregard for these two amendments is responsible for some of the contempt for the Eighteenth Amendment. ROBERT B. SMALL, New York, Jan. 18, 1922.

The Devil's Due

To the Editor of The Tribune:
Sir: Why blame prohibition for the murders and other crimes committed by those who drink the bad whisky of the day? Have you never heard of crimes and killings in the pre-prohibition days done by "good" whisky?

This retort printed so often about crimes committed by rotten liquor to-day makes those who know what liquor did in olden days smile. Give the devil his due, but do not ascribe it all to the bad devil; the "good" devil in days gone by was a close competitor with his bad brother. JAMES V. CHALMERS, New York, Jan. 15, 1922.

The Tower

SONNET
To the photograph of a Pre-Raphaelite Young Lady

Drooping your pose, you esoteric saint you!
Beatrix-like your eyes and throat and lips,
And languorous are your lap strewn finger tips—
Lord! how Rossetti would have loved to paint you.
Rimmed are your eyes with some dull, somber rapture,
Dimming the star dust splendor of your hair;
Shadows of life and love you seek to capture,
Dreaming and longing,—but they are not there.

Keen as the stabs of January wind
And piercing as the dagger thrusts of sleet
My memories of you come back. I find
If they were warm, 'twould not be half so sweet.
Would I were saintly, tender, loving-wise,
Luring the wraiths of sadness from your eyes. F. W. B.

"Ed Schuler," says Uncle Abimelech Bogardus, of Prentiss, N. J., "is in a terrible way. This here disarrangement conference has got so mixed up he don't know who to cuss at."

While on the subject of conferences, the man who names the Pullman cars might find some inspiration in the roster of the Russian delegation to Genoa.

Dirge

There's a star in the window;
A can in the sink;
The water's syzyrized;
The brew's on the blink;
Fusel oil in the whisky;
The brandy's no good;
The bourbon is moonshine;
The alcohol, wood;
The rickety is gin-less;
The wine—ah, c'est triste!
Is muddy and murky
And flavored with yeast.
The star in the window,
The can in the sink,
Don't answer the question
Of "What shall I drink?" HIRAM A.

G. T. stops chuckling long enough to gasp that the Press Humourists' Association ought to hold its next convention in Paterson, N. J., since the local directory proves that Binks and Jinks are both residents of the Queen City of the Passaic. Then off he goes again.

THE SPACIOUS BATH

LEWNA A BATH on April 1st together with four or five-room apartment. Am ready to inspect and view from now. Box 42—Burlington, Vt. Free Press.

"A person who publishes the sort of verse you do can't expect to appreciate the lyrics in 'The Bookman'." A. M. M. informs us.

A. M. M. only reiterates our original complaint. We can't find any ground for a quarrel over his diagnosis. Our only objection is that he doesn't go step further and prescribe the remedy. Possibly, he considers us incurable. Even then there's no ground for dispute, but we do insist that under those circumstances we're a pathetic figure.

Here we sit, confronted by the probability of growing much older and fatter, but with our future marred by the development of cataracts on the sense of verse visualization. It's downright tragic; that's what we call it.

After such a confession, one naturally starts in describing his symptoms. In an interval between spasms of publishing the sort of verse we do we read "White Violets" in "The Bookman." We read it five times and still don't know what it's about. There were other pieces we had to read only three times before making this discovery. Listen:

I laid hot thoughts of you
Between cool petals of white violets
That grew pale lidded in a hidden place
And knew their scentless breaths would leave no trace—
Like crimson roses breathed upon.
We're the last person in the world to rail at clumsy or inept verse. We're too fond of what windows remain in our present all-too-transparent abode. All we insist is that, to us, this doesn't make sense. There are others that appear quite as obscure, but a reluctance to display the extent of the ravages of our disease keeps us from quoting them until some one decodes the above.

With this over, we return to publishing the sort of verse we do.

The Fervent Feeder

Oh, tenderly care me out to a tub
And summon a laundress my raiment to scrub;
For the sight of my façade makes clean folks grow fretty
When I've lidded to my fill on Italian spaghetti.

Though Frank H. Nobbe, the pardoned tile trust man, may be gravely ill, he should find some encouragement in the thought of how swiftly a pardon whisked Charles W. Morse out of reach of the supposedly Grim Reaper.

It may be that the gloomy atmosphere outside has made us unduly morbid in our outlook, but the only advantage we've been able to discover thus far in a cigarette holder is that the ashes now drop on our knees instead of into our lap.

There might be some joy in the report that Mrs. Stillman and Mrs. Leeds have gone abroad if we didn't remember how trans-Atlantic communication has improved in the last few years.

On a day like this we envy the weather man, who concerns himself with happenings only at the top of his tower and gives no thought to what goes on

Way down here in the street. F. F. V.

MAKING THE PACIFIC OCEAN SAFE TO SWIM IN
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Commerce First

Insistence on Its Prime Importance in Foreign Relations

To the Editor of The Tribune:
Sir: Without a doubt all of us who have given the subject consideration will agree with your editorial of January 17 on "Improving Foreign Relations" while a number of us will regret that you did not go further and apply your remarks to the foreign service generally of our government, and not, by stressing the diplomatic service alone, ignore the importance of other branches, particularly the commercial.

Is it not a demonstrated fact that commerce is the great underlying motive of international differences and of international agreement? As an example, we need Van as a cable station in the preservation of a line of communication required for the prompt transmission of information either purely commercial or diplomatic in its indirect relation to some situation basically commercial.

In the last analysis it seems to me that diplomacy exists because of some international commercial motive or stimulus, perhaps coming out of a long past experience or looking to a future of business prospects. It would seem as though the world now recognizes certain defects in secret diplomacy and seeks other means to a settlement of its international problems. Why not grant that in our modern life commerce is the real raison d'être of the intercourse between nations? Even Japan, in its quest for additional territory to accommodate an anticipated unhealthy crowding of its population, is only an exception that by contrast proves the rule.

What we need in the United States is less emphasis on diplomacy in our Foreign Service, as though it were the whole substance of such service. Rather we should understand that, in the promotion of international good will, in the cause of world progress, diplomacy is but one agency to that end. After all, is not trade the essential thing—the potent influence for peace; while diplomacy is its guardah, contributing much to its wellbeing but ever dominated by its needs? W. W. NICHOLS, New York, Jan. 18, 1922.

Waste Wood Worth Saving

To the Editor of The Tribune:
Sir: In crossing on the Staten Island ferry one passes frequently long towns of scows carrying the waste products of New York City to dumping grounds or to disposal plants. Piled up on every load are countless boxes, barrels and crates which, if properly handled, would furnish many a cold and cheerful tenement home with much-needed fuel.

In years past I have appealed to various civic organizations and presented the case to newspapers without awakening any active response. It is argued that the wood in these crates is of inferior quality, but we all know how much warmth the blaze of the poorest kindling gives.

It would seem perfectly possible for the Public Welfare Department and the Street Cleaning Department to arrange that all discarded boxes and crates might be dumped in some vacant lot designated in each neighborhood. There the needy could go, to break up the crates and chop and tie in bundles the waste wood to carry home. Or jobs might be offered to some of the great army of unemployed to chop and bundle the material, so that cheap fuel might be available at a price which would cover the cost of the labor. I remember such an experiment being carried out successfully in a Western city one terrible winter.

We Americans are notoriously waste-

More Truth Than Poetry

By James J. Montague

The Last Straw
I've never visited the Pole—
I don't go anywhere—
And yet it's comforted my soul
To know that it was there.
The changeless axis of a world
Whose equatorial girth
Through space is violently
Whirled—
The one fixed thing on earth.

Though friendship fades, though
Love grows cold,
Though even you and I
In course of time must needs
Grow old,
And, very likely, die;
The Pole, obeying cosmic laws,
Stood there amid the snow
And ice, exactly where it was
A billion years ago.

We've often of a hero read
Whose large and lofty soul
Was always, so the author said,
As constant as the Pole.
Which meant that in fair Fortune's smile
Or penury's stern pinch,
In calm or storm or luck or trial,
He never budged an inch.

But now—and that's the reason
Why
I pen this tragic rhyme—
I learn the Pole has gone awry.
It's moving all the time.
Farewell to calm, and careless
Mirth.
All trust has reached its end;
There's nothing left upon the earth
On which we may depend.

Taking No Chances
No schooner in distress ever sends out an SOS vainly now. She might have a cargo of liquor on board.

Miraculous
The average human life has been increased two years, and at a time when bandits and autos are practically unrestricted.

Easing Down
France and England have unclenched their fists and now are merely shaking their fingers at each other. (Copyright by James J. Montague)

The Starred Windows
To the Editor of The Tribune:
Sir: The starred emblem which, according to the press, the W. C. T. U. is planning to have displayed in the windows of the homes of those who abstain from the use of all intoxicants, blazoning that those so making use of it are loyal to the Constitution, is the latest evidence of the overzealousness of reformers.

At a time when good will is so greatly needed if the whole world is not to go to pot, thus thrust upon us is a device potential of the utmost discord between our people. Neighbor is to be set against neighbor, those making use of the stellar device, by implication at least, accusing those not using it of disloyalty, with recrimination and bitter resentment mounting ever higher. Reflected, too, will be this unhappy condition among neighbors' children, for children readily absorb and express the antipathies of their elders.

"Wear the badge I give you," commands the reformer, "or you shall be known to all the righteous as a counter of law and morality!" Verily, Mr. Editor, we have fallen upon evil days. And we have only our supineness to thank for it. E. A. M., Brooklyn, Jan. 17, 1922.

The War Chest
(From The Buffalo Express)
And of course the United States is expected to finance De Valera's campaign against the Irish Free State.

A Difficult Crop
(From The Baltimore Sun)
The only thing that can be raised on the farm at a profit just at present is the price.